

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

24 April 1963

Honorable J. W. Fulbright  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 25 March 1963 requesting the comments of the Central Intelligence Agency on S. J. Res. 61, "To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Information and Intelligence."

The manner in which the Congress organizes itself to assure that it is appropriately informed of the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and the other foreign intelligence activities of the Government is a matter for the Congress to determine. Existing arrangements involve Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations and Armed Services Committees for CIA matters, and it is my viewpoint that through these particular Subcommittees, the members of the Congress who are on these Committees are informed of CIA activities. During my tenure of office I have reported to these established Subcommittees periodically, affording them comprehensive information on CIA activities and, in addition, responding fully to their questions. Hence, I believe the Congress does, in effect, exercise the control over CIA which appears to be the purpose of the proposed Joint Committee on Foreign Information and Intelligence.

While I feel for the reasons outlined above there is no need for an additional Committee to oversee the affairs of CIA, it is to be noted that the proposed Joint Resolution proposes a Committee on both Foreign Information and Foreign Intelligence. These two activities are quite separate and are not inter-related with respect to either their activities, their budgets, or their operational

MORI/CDF

control within the Executive Branch of the Government. At the present time they are handled by different Committees of the Congress. Foreign informational activities are overt and, as you know, the greater part of the intelligence activities are covert. Hence there is a question as to whether these two unrelated activities should be brought together under the jurisdiction of one Joint Committee, providing the decision is reached to establish such a Committee.

The Bureau of the Budget has no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John A. McCone  
Director